

United States Border Patrol San Diego Sector Public Information Office 2411 Boswell Road San Diego, California 91914-3519 (619) 216-4182



PRESS RELEASE

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TEMECULA BORDER PATROL CHECKPOINT FOILS DRUG SMUGGLER

Temecula, California: On Saturday, Agents operating at the Temecula Border Patrol Checkpoint seized over \$35,000 in drugs. An individual driving a 1997 white Ford Taurus slowly approached the primary inspection at the Temecula Checkpoint on Interstate 15. When initially questioned by the primary agent, the driver of the vehicle responded nervously. The Agent referred the vehicle to secondary inspection where a K-9 led agents to a duffel bag located in the trunk of the vehicle. Inside the bag agents searched and discovered three bundles of marijuana totaling 27.9 lbs. (valued at \$9,765). Another bundle containing 2.67 lbs. of cocaine was also discovered in the bag (valued at \$27,700). The male driver, a United States Citizen, was turned over along with the narcotics and vehicle to the custody of the Southwest Corridor Task Force.

Border Patrol Agents from the Temecula checkpoint have performed a vital role in supporting the broad operational strategy of San Diego Sector. Their vigilance to enforcing the immigration laws has also produced increased security from violators of narcotics trafficking. Fiscal year 1999 to date the Temecula Border Patrol Station has seized over four million dollars in narcotics.